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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO

DATE: Jul. 8

FROM

SUBJECT: Selections, the Current Digest and FFD's Survey

I have no genuinely strong feeling on the three subject publications, except to say that they are not duplicative as they currently operate, but there is a difference in their utility as far as SOC is concerned.

Both Selections and the Current Digest are usable as they are issued. As you know we depend a great deal on being able to use actual quotations. When you have a story or article in these two publications, one can put them to immediate use feeling confident that you have the entire story.

On the other hand, FFD's product is exactly what its title implies, a Survey. It is good for giving leads on a series of developments within a field, but it relies too heavily on paraphrasing. As a result, when using the Survey, you have to run down the original paper to find out exactly what was said. We have found that in one or two instances, the inspiration which came from the Survey proved a dud when the actual article was found. Either the paraphrase in the Survey gave the wrong implication of the contents of the article or its possibilities were misinterpreted by us when glancing through the Survey.

A word of praise for FFD. I think that the current competition has done it good, for the Survey is the first series produced that has had a timeliness, and I am glad to see something from FFD which deals with the recent press and is not so old as to be of only marginal interest by the time it is distributed.

In dealing with the Digest and Selections, I do not know how much to attach to Gruillow's claims of poverty, but one of the original arguments for Selections was as a subsidy to replace a portion of the loss suffered in its operations with the suspension of the JPRS. The Digest is still the best in the field. Before making any decision to finally axe Selections, I think it should be determined how such action may affect the future publication of the Digest.

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